

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 12986 281900Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /117 W

----- 062406

P 281840Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9464

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 12986

E.O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: GISCARD'S FIRST DAY: AN EXCELLENT BEGINNING

1. SUMMARY. JUDGED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS STANDARDS, GISCARD GETS TOP MARKS FOR HIS OPENING-DAY PERFORMANCE. THE FRENCH PUBLIC HAS RESPONDED WARMLY TO THE TONE OF SIMPLICITY AND INFORMALITY HE BROUGHT TO HIS INAUGURAL. HE HAS MADE CLEAR THAT HE INTENDS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO FRANCE'S DESIRE FOR CHANGE, AND HE WILL PROVIDE A FIRM HAND AT THE HELM. BY NEXT WEEK WE SHOULD HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF THE SCOPE AND DIRECTION OF HIS INITIAL POLICY MOVES. END SUMMARY

2. GISCARD IS OFF TO AN EXCELLENT START, JUDGING BY HIS PERFORMANCE DURING HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE. HIS DECISIONS TO SIMPLIFY THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY AND MAKE IT MORE INFORMAL HAVE MET WITH GENERAL PUBLIC FAVOR. THUS, HE ARRIVED AT THE ELYSEE ON FOOT, AFTER STOPPING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 12986 281900Z

ALONG THE WAY TO EMBRACE HIS DAUGHTERS IN THE CROWD.

HE ALSO DROVE HIS CAR PART WAY TO THE ELYSEE. HE WORE A BUSINESS SUIT INSTEAD OF THE USUAL FORMAL DRESS. HE INVITED A GROUP OF SCHOOL CHILDREN INTO THE ELYSEE TO WITNESS THE CEREMONY. HE CHOSE NOT TO WEAR THE GRAND COLLAR OF THE LEGION OF HONOR, WHICH HE RECEIVED AS PART OF THE CEREMONY. HE ELECTED TO USE AN ORDINARY CITROEN RATHER THAN THE SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL LIMOUSINE, AND HE WALKED PART WAY UP THE CHAMPS- ELYSEES TO THE ARC DE TRIOMPE TO THE CHEERS OF AN ESTIMATED 50,000 PEOPLE. ALL OF THESE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN WARMLY RECEIVED BY THE PUBLIC. EVEN COMMUNIST HUMANITE MAY 28 COULD FIND LITTLE TO CRITICIZE ABOUT THE NEW PRESIDENT'S OPENING DAY.

3. IN HIS BRIEF INAUGURAL STATEMENT GISCARD PROJECTED THE IMAGE OF A MODERN PRESIDENT SEEKING A NEW FORMULA OF CHANGE. HE STRESSED THAT HIS INAUGURAL MARKS A NEW ERA IN FRENCH POLITICS, WITH A NEW STYLE AND NEW POLITICAL ATTITUDES. HE WANTS TO BE PRESIDENT OF ALL THE FRENCH PEOPLE, AND PRESIDE OVER AN AUTHENTIC CHANGE IN FRENCH SOCIETY. HE MADE BOWS TO YOUTH, WHILE PAYING TRIBUTE TO HIS ELECTORAL OPPONENTS MITTERRAND AND CHABAN-DELMAS, AND SIGNALING THAT PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY. ABSENT WERE ANY REFERENCES TO DE GAULLE OR POMPIDOU, ALTHOUGH HE LATER IN THE DAY CALLED ON THE LATTER'S WIDOW.

4. BY NAMING JACQUES CHIRAC AS HIS PRIME MINISTER (REPORTED SEPTEL), GISCARD GIVES A STRONG, AUTHORITATIVE TONE TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND SERVES NOTICE THAT HE MEANS BUSINESS. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GISCARD-CHIRAC COMBINATION -- LEAN, TOUGH AND NO NONSENSE -- WILL MOVE RAPIDLY TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE NATION'S AFFAIRS. CHIRAC WILL HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE UDR LEADERS IN PARLIAMENT. THEY HAVE ALREADY MADE CLEAR THAT THEIR SUPPORT WILL NO LONGER BE UNCONDITIONAL, AND THEY WILL NOT HESITATE TO CRITICIZE IF THEY JUDGE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS ARE NOT IN KEEPING WITH GAULLIST DOCTRINE. THE UDR HAS ALSO DECIDED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL NOT BE THEIR PARTY CHIEF, SINCE HE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 12986 281900Z

CHOSEN BY A NON-UDR PRESIDENT. WE EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT CHIRAC WILL BE ABLE TO COMMAND A SOLID ASSEMBLY MAJORITY.

5. OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE SHOULD GAIN A CLEARER IDEA OF THE SCOPE AND DIRECTION OF GISCARD'S INITIAL POLICIES. THE CABINET WILL BE NAMED THE EVENING OF MAY 28. ON MAY 29 GISCARD WILL ADDRESS THE NATION ON TELEVISION

AND FOLLOW UP WITH A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO THE
ASSEMBLY ON MAY 30. WE EXPECT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER
WILL PROBABLY DELIVER A GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT TO
PARLIAMENT AROUND JUNE 4 OR 5.
STONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS12986
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740133-0702
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740514/aaaaalxb.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GISCARD'S FIRST DAY: AN EXCELLENT BEGINNING
TAGS: PGOV, FR, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005